

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/078,755

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Applicant(s)

KAWAKITA, MITSURU

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 02/19/02.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 06 May 2002 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 02/19/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonathan P. Osha on 09/16/04.

2. **(Currently Amended)** An image reproducing apparatus which has a function of a screen saver and reproduces an image on the basis of the image data read out from a storage medium or the image data contained in a video signal, said image reproducing apparatus comprising:

a first field memory capable of storing image data of reproduced images; and
an input unit for selectively inputting a screen saver image from reproduced images; and

a screen saver control unit which stores the image data of the pertinent image in said first field memory when the screen saver image is selectively inputted through said input unit, and in starting said screen saver, read out the image data stored in said first field memory to reproduce the images as screen saver images,

where two or more screen saver images are selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the respective image data stored in said first field memory are successively read out and reproduced.

3. **(Currently Amended)** An image reproducing apparatus which has a function of a screen saver and reproduces an image on the basis of the image data read out from a storage medium or the image data contained in a video signal, said image reproducing apparatus comprising:

a memory for storing the data of the track of a storage medium corresponding to a reproduced image,

an input unit for selectively inputting a screen saver image from reproduced images, and

a screen saver control unit which stores, in said memory, the data of the track of the storage medium corresponding to the image data of the pertinent image when the screen saver image is selectively inputted through said input unit, reads out the data stored in said memory in starting said screen saver, and reproduces the image data stored in the track corresponding to the pertinent data from the storage medium,

where two or more screen saver images are selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the respective image data stored in said memory are successively read out and reproduced.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-3 are allowed over the prior art.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Applicant has claimed uniquely distinct features an image reproducing apparatus which has a function a screen saver and reproduces an image on the basis of the image data read out from a storage medium or the image data contained in a video signal, image from reproduced images; and a screen saver control unit which stores the image data of the pertinent image in said first field memory whenever the screen saver image is selectively unit, wherein inputted through the input said image reproducing apparatus comprising: first field memory capable storing image data corresponding to a plurality images; a second field memory which previously stores an image data of an opening image; an input unit for selectively inputting a screen saver said screen saver control unit is configured so that where a single screen saver image is selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the image data stored in said first field memory and stored in said second field memory are reproduced and images of both image data are alternately reproduced; and where two or more screen saver images are selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the respective image data stored in said first field memory are successively read out and reproduced. These features are not found or suggested in the prior art.

The present invention is directed to first field memory capable storing image data corresponding to a plurality images; a second field memory which previously stores an image

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data of an opening image; an input unit for selectively inputting a screen saver said screen saver control unit is configured so that where a single screen saver image is selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the image data stored in said first field memory and stored in said second field memory are reproduced and images of both image data are alternately reproduced; and where two or more screen saver images are selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the respective image data stored in said first field memory are successively read out and reproduced. Each independent claim is identified "where two or more screen saver images are selectively inputted through said input unit, in starting said screen saver, the respective image data stored in said memory are successively read out and reproduced." The closest prior art of Nagahara et al. and Fagioli discloses a conventional that when a predetermined switch time is reached, the background image represents environmental conditions at predetermined switch time, wherein background image is displayed as a screen saver; either singularly or in combination fail to anticipate or render the above underline limitations obvious.

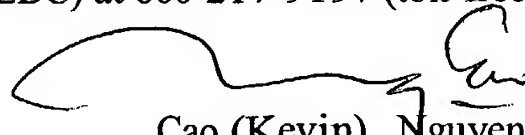
3. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is (703)305-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM-5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on (703)308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Cao (Kevin) Nguyen
Primary Examiner
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09/28/04